

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01609 240551Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 240445Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2260

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 1609

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: MASS, TC, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH SALE OF RAPIER MISSILES TO ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCES

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY INFORMED ME NOVEMBER 23 THAT HMG HAS CONCLUDED DEAL FOR SALE OF RAPIER MISSILE SYSTEM TO ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCES. AS DEPARTMENT AND DOD WILL RECALL, ADDF COS SHAIKH FAISAL AL QASSIMI MADE RECENT TRIP TO PARIS AND LONDON TO SHOP FOR MISSILES. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH HAVE PUT MAJOR SALES EFFORT BEHIND THEIR PRODUCT. MCCARTHY SAID HE HAD STRESSED TO SHAIKH ZAYID THAT HMG WAS NOT RECOMMENDING THAT ABU DHABI BUY MISSILE SYSTEM; HOWEVER IF DECISION WERE FIRM TO BUY MISSILES OF SOME KIND, HMG HOPED THEY WOULD BE BRITISH. MCCARTHY SAID HE PERSONALLY PLEASED AT ABU DHABI DECISION BECAUSE FRENCH TACTICS IN PROMOTING THEIR PRODUCT HAS BEEN QUOTE UNDERHANDED UNQUOTE.

2. AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY SAID RAPIER WOULD BE INSTALLED IN ABU DHABI OVER PROLONGED FOUR YEAR PERIOD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CAREFULLY PHASING IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF RAPIER SYSTEM TO OTHER CUSTOMERS. HE SAID DEAL WOULD RUN TO AROUND 32-42 MILLION STERLING DEPENDING ON INFLATION, PROVISION FOR WHICH HAD BEEN BUILT INTO CONTRACT.

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3. MCCARTHY ASKED THAT WE HOLD THIS INFORMATION ON CONFIDENTIAL
AND NOFORN BASIS UNTIL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE FROM LONDON.
STERNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 NOV 1974
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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